

and works to transform that spark into a glowing fire. Over the years, Rabbi Scheinberg and his wife Judy have selflessly opened their house to congregants and visitors alike, offering hospitality, song, study and the warmth of home to all. It is no wonder that he is so well loved.

Rabbi Scheinberg understands the need for community and the special value of the family. With a stubborn vision and hard work, Rabbi Scheinberg has built a vibrant community centered around synagogue and home, but with a window on the world. Rabbi Scheinberg has reached out beyond the walls of his own congregation and connected with the entire Jewish community in San Antonio. He has worked with colleagues of other faiths to increase understanding and build on common ground. He has led missions to Israel, which enjoys a special and unique place in his heart. He has cried with the bereaved, danced with joy on occasions of happiness, and inspired so many to open their minds and souls to ultimate truths. Above all, his personal faith, dedication and warmth have gained him the undeniable respect of clergy and laymen alike.

On August 27, San Antonio will formally honor Rabbi Scheinberg through the dedication of a new Torah, the handwritten Hebrew text of the five books of Moses. This celebration is fitting: just as Rabbi Scheinberg has written the words of tradition on the hearts of his congregants and students, the community will complete the writing of the very words of Torah he upholds.

INTRODUCTION OF A BILL TO REPEAL THE LOCAL RAIL FREIGHT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

HON. BOB FRANKS

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to repeal the Local Rail Freight Assistance Program [LRFA]. As my colleagues may be aware, this small Federal program uses taxpayer dollars to subsidize privately owned freight railroads.

LRFA was established in the mid-1970's to ease the disruption resulting from the loss of rail service due to the bankruptcy of the Penn Central Railroad and five smaller carriers. LRFA was originally intended as a temporary 2-year formula grant program to assist 18 States by alleviating the economic dislocation caused by rail abandonments. Nearly two decades and over half a billion dollars later, this temporary program has been expanded to include 49 States and the District of Columbia. LRFA continues to receive funding despite the fact that it has not been included in the last 11 budgets submitted by Presidents Reagan, Bush, or Clinton.

The short line industry no longer needs this Government handout. Today, the short line railroad industry is expanding and profitable overall. Furthermore, short lines already have a \$1 billion government loan guarantee program—section 511—to help finance their capital needs.

Because this program has outlived its usefulness, the Congressional Budget Resolution (H. Con. Res. 67) and the fiscal year 1996 transportation appropriations bill (H.R. 2002)

did not include funding for LRFA. LRFA funding for this fiscal year is \$17 million, down from its peak spending level of \$80 million in 1980. My bill would remove the authorizing language and thereby end funding for the LRFA once and for all.

Some have argued that termination of this program will result in greater truck traffic. I know of no evidence, however, of increased truck traffic in the 29 States that did not receive LRFA funding this fiscal year. Supporters of LRFA also point out that economic disruption could result if the program ended. I remind my colleagues that none of my home State's short lines received any LRFA funding this fiscal year—and the industry miraculously survived.

As a member of the House Railroad Subcommittee, I support making the short line industry more competitive. For example, Congress should fund the section 511 guaranteed loan program and reform the antiquated labor laws that apply to freight railroads. These two measures alone would be a thousand times more beneficial to the short lines than continuing the LRFA.

At a time when Congress is cutting funding for publicly owned mass transit, it is perverse to give a handout to privately owned freight railroads. I urge my colleagues to join me in taking the short line railroad industry off the Federal Government's corporate welfare rolls by cosponsoring this legislation.

THE AMERICAN PROMISE

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, the United States was founded on an idea—the idea of democracy. In its general sense, this concept embraces the participation of all segments of society in the shaping of our republic.

However, the American democracy is neither simply defined nor easily described. It is expressed in an infinite number of variations. In its most basic form, democracy in our society is nonrepresentational and conducted directly at the local level. I rise, today, to recommend to my colleagues a Public Broadcasting Service [PBS] television series, "The American Promise," celebrating our country's community-based democracy.

Members of Congress arrive in Washington, DC having won elections to introduce, consider, and vote on legislation. While much is accomplished in our National's capital, too often, congressional democracy devolves into the partisan bickering and a competition for political power.

"The American Promise" highlights another aspect of American democracy. In community after community throughout America, in ways large and small, citizens decide every day to become part of the democratic process. They do this by joining organizations, forming community groups, and helping their fellow citizens to shoulder the burdens of society.

When this happens, there are not losers. When a community development bank is opened in a depressed inner-city location or when neighbors add their combined strength to form a local safety watch program, they are exercising their rights as participants in the American democratic experiment.

In my view, there is no better antidote to doubts about our Nation's future than adjusting our sights from the latest iteration of partisan one-upmanship to the grassroots to relieve our concern.

Mr. Speaker, the PBS special, "The American Promise," does exactly this: It reminds us all of the community-based democracy found beyond this Capitol. In doing so, it restores our faith in the idea for democracy, the possibilities for our future, and the promise of America.

I would also like to highlight a particular aspect of the series. One segment features an outstanding example of grassroots democracy in my home, the Bronx, NY. In response to the tragedy of random inner-city violence, mourning families commission graffiti artists to paint walls honoring their murdered children. These memorials to the past not only honor the lives of those who have died, but represent warnings to the living about the need to work together for an end to the carnage.

Finally, I am proud to recognize the Public Broadcasting Service for making possible programming that demonstrates America at its best. In this time of cuts to the public broadcasting budget, I am proud to commend PBS for continuing to offer the finest programming available on the public airwaves.

Once again, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues and viewers across the Nation to tune in to their local PBS station and watch "The American Promise." The series reminds us of what is right about America and what we must do to achieve our country's full potential.

"RECYCLE! KIDS": ENVIRONMENTAL AMBASSADORS FOR SAN DIEGO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 4, 1995

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to congratulate "Meredythe and Recycle! Kids" for their seventh anniversary and to applaud their recent recognition as the official environmental youth ambassadors for the city of San Diego.

Meredythe and the Recycle! Kids was created in 1988 by Meredythe Dee Winter as a unique learning experience for homeless and underserved youth. Hundreds of children have participated in the program.

All children are welcome to participate in special workshops that teach them to become aware of environmental issues and enjoy a caring, artistic atmosphere. Members have contributed their skills in choreography, gymnastics, singing, and dancing.

The Recycle! Kids has achieved international recognition. Meredythe and the Recycle! Kids was the only program chosen to represent San Diego County at the 25th Anniversary National Earth Day Celebration in Washington DC.

They were also selected to participate in the United Nations Environment Programme—Global Youth Forum. In 1994, Recycle! Kids performed at the Plenary Session in front of the White House. More than 1,500 people were in the audience, including many United Nations officials. In 1993, they were honored by the Philippine Delegation at the Plenary Session in Boulder, CO.